[Translation]

Impact of Fertilizers on Agricultural Production

598. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has conducted any study regarding adverse affect of the chemical fertilizers on agriculture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ICAR has suggested any remedial measures in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to constitute an advisory body for the conservation of soil, underground water and environment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) ICAR is conducting location specific fertilizer experiments to workout package of practices for optimum and balanced use of plant nutrients. Adoption of these practices do not have any adverse effect on crop performance and soil health.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

(e) and (f) The advise in this regard is being provided by State Agricultural Universities to State Departments of Agriculture.

[English]

Swarna Mussorie Paddy

599. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the basis for determing 67-68 per cent rice recovery from paddy in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the names of States from where Swarna Mussorie Paddy is being procured at a superior quality paddy support price;

(c) whether this paddy is likely to be procured under the superior quality in Madhya Pradesh also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The Government of India has fixed the out turn ratio of 67% for milling of paddy into raw rice and 68% for parboiled rice applicable to all groups of paddy in all States including the State of Madhya Pradesh uniformly from the Kharif Marketing Season 1995-96 on the basis of trial milling experiments conducted in various States and recommendation of Export Committee appointed for the purpose.

(b) to (d) The procurement of paddy/rice under Minimum Support Price (MSP) is made in accordance with the Group/classification of paddy rice based on the length/breadth ratio since Marketing season 1979-80, as per the recommendation of the Balasubramaniam Committee. Accordingly, paddy/rice varieties are classified in superfine, fine and common group.

The 'Swarna Mussorie' variety has been classified by Government of India for the State of Madhya Pradesh as 'COMMON' and, for the State of Orissa as 'FINE', based on the length/breadth ratio and is paid for accordingly. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh is paying Rs. 15/- per quintal as bonus over and above the price fixed for common group of paddy. The procurement agencies including FCI have been instructed to procure the paddy/rice strictly in accordance with the single grade specification of paddy/rice issued by the Government of India for the Kharif Marketing season 1996-97 for Central Pool under the MSP.

Smuggling of Arms

600. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan is a safe and favourite stop over for drug traffickers and terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mafia operating in several districts of Rajasthan are closely linked with the terrorists and drug smugglers across the border in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to curb such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per reports available, no organised Mafia has been noticed in Rajasthan. Following steps have, however, been taken to curb activities of *individual traffickers* operating in border areas of Rajasthan :

(i) Patrolling/Nakas by BSF and State Police have been increased/intensified.

(ii) OP towers by BSF have been erected.

(iii) Binoculars, Goggles, Twin, telescopes, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided to Patrolling parties for enhanced vigilance on the border.

(iv) Jeeps, tractors and camels have been provided for intensified patrolling on the border.

(v) Border fencing and flood lighting has been done/ is being done at a fast pace.

(vi) Border road/tracks are being constructed/developed for vehicular patrolling.

(vii) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil along the border areas.

(viii) Training is being imparted to officers to improve effectiveness.

(ix) Reward schemes for informers and enforcement officers are being implemented.

(x) Quarterly coordination meetings are being held which are attended by all enforcement agencies involved in curbing drug trafficking, under a bilateral agreement with Pakistan periodic meetings are taking place at Secretary and D.G. Level.

In addition, contact points have been designated by the two countries for direct operation communication.

Research Contract with USA

601. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun has signed a research contract with the United States Department of Agriculture;

(b) if so, the date of its signing and the details of the contract;

(c) the rationale behind signing this contract and the likely benefits to be accured therefrom to India;

(d) whether the Government have examined the impact of such contract to the extent of its affecting India's invaluable bio-diversity being patented and used in the United States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Director, Wild Life Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, had signed an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture on 24th November 1995. The agreement contained 17 clauses of general provisions applicable to Foreign Agricultural Research Grants. The singning of agreement was required to indicate the acceptance of a grant of Rs. 96,90,000 to WII for the research project entitled, "Management of Forests in India for Biological Diversity and Forest Productivity—an Ecosystem Perspective". The main objective of the project is to evaluate the impacts of forestry practices and the use of forest products by people, the methods of harvesting and collection on forest diversity and documentation of conservation problems.

(d) and (e) The United States Department of Agriculture have conveyed that the kind of product expected out of this Project, guides and planning documents, would not be subject to licences or patents and, therefore, Patent and Licence Rights Clause does not apply to the agreement.

Official Secret Act, 1923

602. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has made a recommendation to the effect that the citizens should have a right to information and the work of the Government should not be shrouded in mystery and the Official Secrets Act;

(b) whether British rules, the framers of the Act have already amended this Act in 1989 making way for a more open Government;

(c) whether Government of India also propose to amend the Offical Secrets Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Supreme Court had taken any view on the writ petition filed against the Union Government challenging among other things Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Government to expedite the matter in the Supreme Court ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Fifth Pay Commission have recommended the passing of a Right to information Act with built-in safeguards to ensure the privacy of national interests as also the privacy of the individual citizen.

(b) The Official Secrets Act of U.K. has been